

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-16 and 21-24 are currently being canceled.

Claim 17 is currently being amended in order to correct a minor informality found in that claim.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 17-20 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 17-20 are allowed.

Claims Rejections:

In the Office Action, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Due to the cancellation of claim 9, this rejection is now moot.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,955,061 to Hata et al.; claims 5, 7, 11, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0026340 to Divakaran et al.; and claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,793 to Maeda. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-16 and 21-24, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 3, 2004

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